

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended.) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising an the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3,~~
 - b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3,~~
 - c) ~~a polypeptide comprising~~ a biologically active fragment of an the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3, and~~
 - d) ~~a polypeptide comprising~~ an immunogenic fragment of an the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3.~~
2. (Currently amended.) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 ~~selected from the group consisting~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3.
3. (Currently amended.) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of ~~claim 1:~~ selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3,
 - b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3,
 - c) a biologically active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
4. (Currently amended.) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of ~~claim 2:~~ claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3,
5. (Currently amended.) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and~~ comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

6. (Original.) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

7. (Original.) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

8. (Canceled.)

9. (Original.) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

10. (Canceled.)

11. (Currently amended.) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising a the polynucleotide sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4,~~
- b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a the polynucleotide sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4,~~
- c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of a),
- d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of b), and
- e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

12. (Original.) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 11.

13. (Original.) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

14. (Original.) A method of claim 13, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

15. (Original.) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

16. (Original.) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (Original.) A composition of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3.

18. to 26. (Canceled.)

27. (Original.) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 5, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

28. (Original.) A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound,
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 11 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 11 or fragment thereof;
- c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and
- d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

29. to 44. (Canceled.)

45. (Original.) A polypeptide of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

46. (Original.) A polypeptide of claim 1, comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

47. (Original.) A polynucleotide of claim 11, comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

48. (Original.) A polynucleotide of claim 11, comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.